challenging the delimitation exercise on various grounds including *inter alia* that it would threaten the ethnic structure of political representation in North-Eastern States and some other States as well.

Share of Punjab in education cess

*106. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Central assistance, out of the educational cess, given to Punjab during 2005-06, 2006-07 and that earmarked for 2007-08, for various educational schemes, scheme-wise and year-wise; and

(b) whether the State has given its share so as to fully utilize the Central assistance, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The proeeeds of Education Cess, credited into a non-lapsable fund called Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK) are utilised exclusively for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme. Expenditure on SSA and MDM is incurred from PSK after funds provided by way of Gross Budgetaiy Support (GBS) are fully utilised. No allocation is made separately to States against the Education Cess. Assistance under PSK is released to States as per the schematic pattern and budgetary allocations for SSA and MDM.

The break-up of Central assistance and State share for Punjab under SSA and MDM schemes is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	SSA		MDM	
	GoI Releases	State Share	GoI Releases	State Contribution
2005-06	146.83	48.94	17.74	No minimum mandatory State share
2006-07	128.79	26.27	62.25	14.00
2007-08	35.00 (upto 1.7.07)	-	29.41 (upto 16.8.07)	17.97

Fast Track Courts for pending cases

*107. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending in the courts in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to start new Fast Track Courts for trie clearance of pending cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?